(c) whether this fund is meant for State Government only or for NGOs also?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) All the Union Ministries/Departments (expect those specifically exempted) are required to spend at least 10% of their Budget for the programmes benefiting the North Eastern Region and Sikkim. Shortfalls in meeting this target are pooled in a Central Pool of Resources. As on 31.3.2002, an amount of Rs. 1346.72 crores has been released for implementing various projects in the North East and Sikkim during the last four years.

(b) and (c) Detailed guidelines have been issued regarding the criteria and norms for selecting projects on 10th December, 2001. As per these guidelines, the following essential eligibility conditions should be met while submitting the project proposal for consideration under the Pool:—

(i) the proposals should be for financing of capital projects, or improving utilization of existing assets;

(ii) the proposals should be accompanied by Detailed Project Reports (DPR) and should be cleared from all administrative and regulatory angles;

(iii) the project outlay should be more than Rs. 1 crore; and

(iv) the cost of the land acquisition is not eligible for funding under the Central Pool.

The proposals under the Non-lapsable Central Pool of Resources for State Plan Projects should be routed through the concerned State Governments. Similarly, proposal of NGOs should also be routed through the State Governments for consideration under Non-lapsable Central Pool of Resources as per the eligibility criteria.

Printing press for counterfeit rates in Saharanpur

†5057. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the business of printing counterfeit currency notes in the country is still going on;

(b) if so, whether any factory has been unearthed in Saharanpur, Uttar Pradesh during the last six months;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) if so, whether Government have taken any action against them so far; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Relaxation on qualifying for Section Officers Exams

5058. SHRI GANDHI AZAD: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the office of Comptroller and Auditor General of India was giving relaxation including marks by lowering qualification for Section Officer Grade Examination to SC/ST;

(b) if so, date from which it was withdrawn and again the date from which it was restored;

(c) what action was requested to be taken as per para 4 sub-para (i) to (v) and para 5 of DOPT Order No. 20011/1/2001-estt.(D) dated the 21st January, 2002;

(d) the details of action taken as per (c) above; and

(e) by when action as para (c) above will be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) The relaxation, by lowering qualifying marks to SC/ST candidates, was withdrawn by Comptroller and Auditor General in the Section Officer Grade Examination held in December 1996 and restored from the Section Officer Grade Examination held in November 2000 in compliance with the DOP and T OM No. 36012/23/96-estt(Res)-Vol. II dated 3.10.2000.

(c) to (e) As per para 4 sub-para (i) to (v) and para 5 DPOT order No. 20011/1/2001-Estt.(D) datd 21.01.2002.

(i) SC/ST Government servants, on their promotion by virtue of rule of reservation/roster are to be allowed consequential seniority with retrospective effect from 17.6.1995.

(ii) Treating the Government's instructions contained in DOPT's OM No. 20011 / 1 / 96 Estt(D) dated 30.01.97 as withdrawn *ab initio* and seniority of Government servants determined earlier in the light of aforesaid OM is to be revised.